

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : WHAM et al. Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Serial No. : Not Yet Assigned Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
For : VESSEL SEALING SYSTEM

**CONTINUATION APPLICATION OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION:**

Applicants : WHAM et al. Examiner: PEFFLEY, Michael F.  
Serial No. : 10/073,761 Group Art Unit: 3739  
Filed : February 11, 2002  
For : VESSEL SEALING SYSTEM

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please  
consider the following new claims and remarks.

The Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this  
paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.